MR. E. I. CHACKO (*Ag. Director of Industries*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Labour Commissioner discussed the matter severally with the Manager, Travancore Minerals Company, Ltd., and the President of the Mineral Workers' Union. But since then it has been found that, owing to lack of shipping facilities, the work in the factories has been curtailed and they have been nearly closed down. The grievances of the labourers which relate particularly to re-employment can be redressed only when the factories begin normal work and more hands are engaged.

Forest reserves of Cheruvalloor and Vengoor.

369. ✻**MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a proposal before Government to register the forest reserves of Cheruvalloor and Vengoor in the Quilon Division to any private individual or individuals ; and

(*b*) if so, what steps were taken by Government in the matter ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATASWARA AIYAR (*Conservator of Forests*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of answer to part (*a*).

Demonstration cocoanut farm.

370 ✻**MR. K. G. GOVINDAN** (*Pattanamtitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is, now, any demonstration cocoanut farm under the direct management of the Agricultural Department ; and

(*b*) if any, its name ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Cocoanut Farm, Oachira.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*) : May I know whether the farm is running at a loss or not ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : It is self-supporting and from this year onwards it has begun to give a margin of profit.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know the acreage and the number of cocoanut trees and the yield of that farm in the years 1115 and 1116 ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The area of the farm is about 5 acres. There are about 250 cocoanut trees and the yield is 12,000 to 13,000 nuts per year.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : May I know whether there are very many places in the State where the leaves of cocoanut trees get dried?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, there are a few places.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : May I know how that can be remedied ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : They can be controlled by the liberation of parasites.

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MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : ഈ ഫാറത്തിൽ കൃഷിനടത്തിത്തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് എത്രകൊല്ലമായി?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഏകദേശം ൨൦ കൊല്ലത്തോളമായി.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : ഈ ഫാറത്തിലേക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഇതിനു അടുത്ത ചോദ്യത്തിൽ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : ഇതിലേക്കു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു എത്രവരും?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഇതിലേക്കു ൨൯൯ രൂപായോളം ചെലവുണ്ട്.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMAN KUNJU : ഓച്ചിറ ഫാറത്തിലെ കാലയുടെ നിറം മഞ്ഞയായിരിക്കാനുള്ള കാരണം എന്താണ്?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നമാതിരി കാലകറം കൂ മഞ്ഞ നിറം ഇല്ല.

Cocoanut Farm at Oachira.

371. *MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount annually spent for maintaining the cocoanut farm at Oachira and the benefit derived ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*) : The annual expenditure for the maintenance of the Farm inclusive of the pay of the Maistry, *viz.*, Rs. 180, is Rs. 299.

The Farm serves to demonstrate to the agriculturists of Onattukara scientific methods of cocoanut cultivation.

(1) It has shown that keeping the top layer of soil loose by frequent ploughing enables the cocoanut trees to withstand drought.

(2) The manurial experiments tested out in the Farm have proved that a manure mixture of 15 lbs. of ash, 4 lbs. of prawn skin and 8 lbs. of oil cake (laurel or Marotti) is admirably suited to the sandy loam soil in the locality.

(3) That the growing of green manure crops such as Daincha and Boja medalloa in between cocoanut trees and incorporating them into the soil increases the growth and development of the palms is shown in the Farm. Seeds of the green manure crops are raised in and distributed from the farm to ryots.

(4) Guinea and Napier grasses are cultivated on bunds and tussocks thereof widely distributed.

(5) The Plant Pathologist is conducting on this Farm field trial of the methods of combating the wilt diseases of the cocoanut palm, which the agriculturists can follow with considerable advantage.

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